DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 185 995 IR 008 327

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TITLE Interlibrary Lending with Computerized Union Catalogues.
PUB DATE Aug 79
NOTE 10p.: Paper presented at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (45th, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 27-September 1, 1979).

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Computer Output Microfilm; *Data Processing; Foreign Countries; *Interlibrary Loans; Library Automation; *Library Networks; Library Services; Library Technical Processes; Online Systems; *Union Catalogs
IDENTIFIERS *West Germany

ABSTRACT

Interlibrary loans in the Federal Republic of Germany are facilitated by applying techniques of data processing and computer output microfilm (COM) to the union catalogs of the national library system. The German library system consists of two national libraries, four central specialized libraries of technology, medicine, agriculture, and economics, and approximately 20 regional libraries operating in decentralized cooperative networks. The national library in Berlin prepares COM union catalogs of the national serials database at 6-month intervals for use by the regional libraries, each of which prepares magnetic tape information on their new accessions for the national library. The COM union catalog processing originated as and still is an offline process; however, the processing and management of bibliographic data to be practical in the future must be developed as an online system. A national program has been devised to provide a computerized online system within the regional networks of libraries in the early 1980s. The library centers thus equipped will fulfill the multiple functions of accelerated technical processing of books and periodicals, production of COM union catalogs and an online interlibrary loan capability, and creation of a national subject information system. (RAA)

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ED185995

IFIA COUNCIL 1979

Division: Collections and Services

Section: Interlending

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Interlibrary Lending with Computerized Union Catalogues

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1.1 No library can be self-sufficient. Methods of cooperation vary greatly from country to country. There are countries with a central lending library, countries with several efficient large libraries for interlending, countries in which provision is decentralised through a central referral system, countries in which provision is decentralised with a regional referral system, countries with central subject libraries - there are also countries without an organised national interlending system.

1.2 The Federal Republic of Germany exemplifies a decentralised cooperative system composed of regional and subject elements. The state level is in fact the level of planning and provision. The basic onus of literature provision is carried by the regions, the provision of special literature by the subject structure. To this belong the State Libraries of Berlin and Munich, the four central subject libraries in Hanover (Technology), Kiel (Economics), Bonn (Agriculture) and Cologne (Medicine) as do the twenty or so "focal point libraries" of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. These libraries guarantee that at least one copy of all publications is available in the Federal Republic.

The seven union catalogues are an important tool for interlending. They are responsible for all locations in their respective regions - as a rule in card catalogues with some 87.6 million entries from 500 libraries. Requests which a library cannot supply go to the relevant union catalogue, if the publication still cannot be located the request is referred to the next union catalogue or to the relevant "focal point library".

1.3 The following brief details give an idea of the volume of requests made by German academic libraries. Use - both local and by means of interlending - has increased by some 45% in the last three years to more than 12 million requests

of which 87% represents local use, 13% or 1.6 million requests being for interloans. It is interesting that of these 48% is not channelled through the union catalogues but is sent direct to holding libraries by means of printed or COM indexes. This is a development, which is beginning to alter the interlending scene in the Federal Republic.

1.4 The rapidly increasing demands for literature provision require new structures and techniques. Interlending cannot be thought of as a temporary solution, but as one of the basic requirements for the comprehensive provision of literature. Two techniques are combined to meet this requirement: data processing and, as publishing medium, the microfilm, in particular COM (Computer Output Microfiche). Thanks to this combination extensive bibliographies can be quickly and immediately produced. COM is economical, easily reproduced and distributed, easy to use, and presentation and lay out can be varied.

In the Federal Republic this form of catalogue is widely used both for individual catalogues and for union catalogues.

2.1 In view of the increasing significance of periodicals on interlibrary loan allow me to explain the computerised location system for periodicals. German libraries already have a long tradition based on printed indexes.

2.2 In the Federal Republic of Germany we have at our disposal a National Serials Data Base at the German Library Institute (DBI) in West Berlin in cooperation with the State Library. The Serials Data Base contains around 165,000 titles in all subjects of which 50% are current periodicals, and around 500,000 stock records. It is made available in alphabetical order on microfiche; a new catalogue is published and sold every six months.

2.2.2 Behind this national referral system stands a regional structure. The regional systems which already exist or which are being established regularly contribute information; to this is added the input of material that is included in the continuing conventional periodical indexes GAZS and GZS at the State Library of West Berlin. In line with the federal structure of the Republic, the actual work level lies at the regional centres. They have their own development, editing and production capacities. At present four of the six regions cooperate with the Serials Data Base: Baden-Württemberg, West Berlin, Hessen and North Rhine - Westphalia, Bavaria and Lower Saxony have their own periodical indexes which at the moment are not compatible.

2.3 The regional centres have technical jurisdiction over the libraries linked to them, library standards for cataloguing and exchanging data are observed.

Their duties are:-

- control of the regional data files
  (Title , corporate bodies, stocks) in which attention is paid to the complete listing of all libraries, including reference libraries,
- exchange of data with the DBI,
- bibliographic checking and processing of data supplied by individual libraries,
- production of regional and local periodical indexes,
- when occasion arises, production of order documents and of indexes for the acquisition of periodicals,
- current periodicals location.

The regional centres send their new accessions of titles and stock by magnetic tape to the National Serials Data Base at the DBI and receive in return data concerning current titles which serve as a cataloguing aid. Thus the hierarchical division of labour within the region means all local and regional requirements can be distinguished and met and a unified referral

system can be created with the cooperation of regional data bases.

2.4 The duties of the national centre are:

- Taking charge of and amalgamating data supplied by the regions,
- management of the central files
  (a) Corporate body file as a general file for German libraries,
  (b) Title file, in which, in particular, titles of supraregional importance are stored,
  (c) Stock file, with stocks which are important and accessible for interlibrary lending,
- transmission of data to the regional centres,
- conversion of foreign periodicals data to MABI and editing as required,
- production of national union and subject lists.

The national centre also controls the close cooperation of the regional systems in order to avoid the disadvantages arising from decentralisation such as the duplication of work or differing cataloguing rules.

2.5 The Serials Data Base has meanwhile become an important tool for interlibrary lending. Direct requesting has resulted in a substantial improvement. The microfiche catalogue will surely gain increasing significance for international lending, for of the ca. 100,000 requests which are received each year from abroad by German libraries some 53% concern periodicals.

Indeed it is intended next year to make the Serials Data Base accessible on-line in EURONET. I am sure, however, that the present COM edition is still of long term significance.

3.1 It immediately comes to mind, in view of the regional structure of literature supply, the existing extensive union catalogues, the current electronic data processing activities in the region, eg the processing of

periodicals, to organise the cataloguing of monographs in this area of planning as well and, with the building up of regional networks, to emphasise demands for establishing regional library centres.

3.2 The starting point of the first shared data bases in West Germany was the cooperative processing activity of the newly founded "Gesamthochschulbibliotheken" in North Rhine - Westphalia and the university libraries in Bavaria. Processing was and still is executed off-line. The COM union catalogue is both an aid to cataloguing and an interlending tool. Further COM publications for interlending purposes are the current ISBN index of the libraries of Hessen which includes post-1974 material and is updated quarterly. It contains at the moment ca. 200,000 locations. North Rhine - Westphalia and Lower Saxony followed this example so that computerised COM indexes enable the direct requesting of a considerable proportion of monographs. These procedures have resulted in rationalised, improved and speedier interlending.

3.3.1 However, they have also shown, that the processing and management of large amounts of bibliographic data permitting frequent access, an extensive modification service, regular updating, and a current information function which will be practical in the future is only possible with on-line systems. In such a network the centrally stored bibliographic data also fulfil a stock locating function for interlending.

Location itself should next be effected along the lines of the above concepts by appropriate COM union catalogues.

3.3.2 Discussions about such a national programme have meanwhile been put into concrete terms in a planning paper of the Deutsche Forchungsgemeinschaft, which has been evaluated favourably by representatives both of the states and of the Republic and which has good chances of being realised. It states that

the establishing of independent regional library centres with their own computers as central service institutions with library and edp - technical responsibilities is an indispensable basic condition for building regional networks. A single national system in the place of the seven planned regional networks is not considered appropriate in the light of prevailing political, legal, technical and organisational conditions. Instead of centralisation, close cooperation of the regional networks should be provided for, which should be actively coordinated and organised by a network secretariat at the DBI in West Berlin.

3.3.3 The putting of such centres into operation is anticipated at the beginning of the 1980's, especially the installation of an on-line network in North Rhine Westphalia at the Hochschulbibliothekszentrum in Cologne, in Hessen at the community area computing centre in Frankfurt, and in Baden - Württemberg. Project groups are working on the matter in Bavaria and in West Berlin.

The Federal Ministry of Research, in line with its activities aimed at realising the programme to create subject information centres, is interested in the building up of a regional network in order to combine information services closely with the provision of literature. In the context of this project the Ministry provides 50% of the financial support for the provision of hardware.

3.3.4 The exact basis for choosing the computer equipment is not indentical in all cases because of the differing equipment of libraries in the regions. Based on a medium order of magnitude the computing needs of a regional centre are as follows:-

- A central unit with a storage capacity of 2 MB,
- large peripheral storage units of 2 milliard bytes,
- 6 magnetic tape units,
- the usual paper peripheral units,

- 100 terminals in libraries linked together as a group system.

This requires an investment of some 4-6 million D.M. To this must be added the costs of equipping libraries taking part in the network with machinery.

3.3.5 The list of duties of the regional library centres provides for services and development as well as coordination and planning.

Services include in particular:

- The building up, management and maintenance of the central data,
- the exchange of data with other networks and supraregional central establishments,
- the central editing of data received by way of cooperative cataloguing,
- the production of catalogues and referral systems.

Development includes:

- The central development and maintenance of the programming system for the regional network,
- the central development and maintenance of the programme used in decentralised libraries and the programmes of autonomous systems (eg lending).

4. It is obvious that the regional library centres are to be seen in a wider context only in the role of locating monographs or guiding interlending. But they will in the future be the proper seed crystal for the processing of books and periodicals and of a union finding list for the provision of literature. Thereby, in the context of improving interlending, they fulfil a three-fold function:-

- The acceleration of processing books and periodicals in individual libraries and thereby a general improvement of resources,
- the production of widely disseminated union finding lists in the form of COM catalogues, later also on-line access to the literature data banks for national and international lending,
- the close connexion of subject information systems as sources of literature references and libraries as sources of stock locations.

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